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BOROUGH of CHARD

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1945

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health:

D. V. HAGUE,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

P. H. WEBB,
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

YOUNG AND SON, CHARD

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1945.

It is hoped that houses will soon become available to relieve the extreme shortage of accommodation. The Council are aware of the serious nature of present overcrowding with its social difficulties and ever-present risk of epidemic diseases. In the circumstances the general health of the town is remarkably good. Very few cases of infectious disease were notified. Three cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Two of these were removed from the Maternity Home and will be charged to County funds.

Since the end of the War several ships have arrived in the country with cases of Small Pox or Small Pox Contacts on board. Several of these contacts have come to Chard. Though there has never been any serious risk it has been a relief to know that a fair proportion of the local population have recently been vaccinated.

Shortage of water has not been so acute but present supplies are inadequate in times of drought and new housing estates will make this position more acute. A consulting engineer is preparing a scheme for radical improvements in the disposal of sewage. Pending the execution of this scheme a chlorinating plant is being installed to improve the quality of the effluent from the present works.

This will be my last Report to the Council. I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their unfailing courtesy and help in the execution of my duties, and to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their cordial co-operation which has made much of my work extremely pleasant. Much of the detailed information in this Report has been supplied by Mr. Webb.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	1,030 Acres
Registrar-General's estimate of (a) Resident Population mid-1944, (b) Average Population appropriate to the calculations of death rates.	4,757
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book ...	1,430
Rateable Value	£28,063
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£109

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	72	42	30
Live Births—Illegitimate ...	6	3	3
Still Births—Legitimate ...	1	1	0
Still Births—Illegitimate ...	0	0	0
Deaths	56	29	27
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			16
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)			12
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			11

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ...	25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	27
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Causes of Death

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Res. System ...	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	0
Cancer	3	4
Intra-Cranial Vasc.: Lesions ...	3	4
Heart Disease	9	4
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	3
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	0
Appendicitis	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	1	0
Birth Injuries and Malformations, etc.	1	0
Road Traffic Accidents	1	0
All other Causes	5	5
Total ...	29	27

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for Area

1. Mr. A. G. Phelps has returned from the Forces and has been assisting Mr. Webb in his duties as Sanitary Inspector since September, 1945.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities—No change.
   (b) Ambulance Facilities—No Change.
   (c) Clinic and Treatment Centres—No new Centres have been opened.
   (d) Nursing in the Home—Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance continue their good work as District Nurses.
   (e) Hospitals—No Change.
   (f) War Nursery—General arrangements remain unchanged. Average daily number of children during the year 22.

   Staff.—Warden, Three Nursery Attendants, One Cook, Two Cleaners (part-time).

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SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supply.**—The town has two main supplies at high and low level. In times of drought these supplies are not wholly adequate. Both supplies are of satisfactory quality and both are chlorinated.

   No. of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains (Est. population 4757) 1369
   Supplied direct to houses 1091
   By means of stand pipes ... 278

   Other Supplies:—
   One private well supplies 23 houses.
   Samples of water taken from public supplies taken for Bacteriological examination in 1945: 4, all satisfactory.
2. **Drainage and Sewerage**—Repairs only.
3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

   Drainage Tests and Inspections—
   Tests 18
   Inspections 21
   Houses Disinfected 21
   Dairies and Cowsheds inspections ... 16
   Water Samples Taken 5
4. **Schools**—No Change.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 22
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 47
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932 0
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 0
   (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ... 0
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 0

Housing Action.

(a) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 0
(b) Number of Houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action 0

Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

Proceedings Under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 16
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:—
   (a) By Owners 9
   (b) By Local Authority 0

Proceedings Under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

Proceedings Under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply

Number of Producers on the Register 8
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—
(1) Distributors only 6
(2) Distributors who are also Producers 2

Meat and Other Foods

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed 1

Government Slaughter House

417 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

Regular visits have been made to shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration

Local action taken 0

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following children are now immunised:
543 School Children *(5-14 years inclusive) 82%
328 Children under School Age (1-4 years inclusive) 87%

*These figures refer only to children attending County Maintained Schools. It has not been possible to ascertain figures for children in the district attending other Schools though it is believed that the majority of these children are also immunised. Children under one year are also not included.

As a rule, children under the age of 12 months are not susceptible to diphtheria. It is probably wise to begin inoculations after the age of six months, but many Doctors do not immunise until the age of 12 months is reached. Very few of these very young children have been immunised and they have not been included in the figure given above.

The figure for all children from age 0-4 years would be 59%.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, 3 being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton:—

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—
Measles	15	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Pneumonia ...	5	—	1
Oph. Neonatorum	7	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65
Scarlet Fever...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	1	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerp'l. Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Oph. Neonatorum	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—35	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total ...	3	5	0	0	1	1	1	0

Total New Cases 8. Deaths 3.